



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, October 26, 2007**

**#07-154**

**MAN WHO FAILED TO APPEAR FOR SENTENCING APPREHENDED  
AND SENTENCED TO 60 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR GROWING MARIJUANA**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, October 26, 2007, that Kenneth Gassman, a recent resident of Tennessee, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 60 months in prison for his conviction of growing 100 marijuana plants.

Chief United States District Court Judge John W. Sedwick imposed the sentence on Gassman, age 54.

According to information presented to the court by Assistant United States Attorney Stephan A. Collins, Gassman was originally charged in 1998 with conspiracy to grow marijuana and had pleaded guilty to growing 100 marijuana plants on March 26, 1999. Gassman, however, failed to appear for his June 16, 1999, sentencing hearing and his whereabouts were unknown until his arrest on June 28, 2007 near Nashville, Tennessee.

Gassman originally faced a sentence of approximately 30 months of imprisonment, but because of his failure to appear at his original sentencing hearing, Judge Sedwick imposed a longer term taking into account, Gassman's further criminal conduct of failing to appear for sentencing.

Mr. Cohen commended the Drug Enforcement Administration and Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Gassman.

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